

# ELDRITCH CALAMITY

Story and Art by Shannon "Nash" Garrity



GAOTH,  
I NEED TO TALK WITH  
YOU.



WHAT  
CAN I DO FOR YOU FAITH,  
SAM?



LOOK, SAM AND I HAVE DONE SOME SLEUTHING OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, TRYING TO GATHER UP ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO PROVE SENATOR GREY IS THE JERK THAT BIT ME. BUT HE'S IN GOVERNMENT, YOU KNOW? WE TRIED TO WORK OUT HOW TO GET TO HIM OURSELVES, BUT I CAN'T GO THROUGH MUNDANE CHANNELS AND I NEED SOME MORE INFLUENTIAL HELP TO GO GET THE BASTARD. HELP LIKE YOURS. SAM AND I MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE HIM IF WE WORKED TOGETHER, BUT, WELL -



THAT HAS SOCIAL  
REPERCUSSIONS IF DONE WITHOUT  
PROPER PROOF AND SUPPORT, EVEN  
AMONGST ELDRITCH FOLK.

HMM. SEEMS THIS  
GENTLEMAN LIVES UP NORTH, OUT OF  
MY INFLUENCE. IF WE CAN FIND SOME DECENT  
EVIDENCE, WE'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH  
THE DOGMEN TO—

DECENT EVIDENCE?!  
IT'S ALL RIGHT THERE! WE'VE BEEN  
WORKING SO HARD!

YOU SAID YOU HAVE  
NO WEREWOLVES IN THIS AREA, REALLY,  
BUT HE WAS VISITING THE AREA AT THE TIME! HE EVEN GREW UP  
HERE! HE HAD SOME TRAUMATIC STUFF HAPPEN WHEN HE WAS  
YOUNG—MAYBE HE'S A LITTLE NUTTY AND IS TRYING TO MAKE MORE  
WEREWOLVES. ACCORDING TO SAM'S SOURCES, HIS  
PELT COLOR IS DARK AND—

AND THAT WOULD NOT  
BE ENOUGH TO CONVICT A HUMAN OF A CRIME. THIS IS ALL  
CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE. I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S ENOUGH TO  
GET THE DOGMEN TO CONSIDER CALLING HIM IN. I CAN ASK,  
BUT I CAN'T GUARANTEE ANYTHING..





WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THEM ANYWAY?

BECAUSE THEY'RE IN CHARGE UP NORTH. WE ALL FOLLOW BASIC RULES, BUT--

WE? WHO ARE "WE?"

FAITH, WE WENT THROUGH THIS...

THE VARIOUS LEADERS OF ANY GIVEN REGION'S MAGICAL COMMUNITY. HERE, I'M IN CHARGE ON BEHALF OF THE FAE. NORTH, IT'S THE DOGMEN. TO THE EAST, VAMPIRES ARE IN CONTROL, ETCETERA ETCETERA. HECK, THERE'S EVEN AN AREA OUT WEST THAT'S RUN BY JACKALOPES. WHATEVER PARANORMAL CREATURE THAT IS MOST PREDOMINANT IN ANY ONE SPACE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GOVERNING AND POLICING ALL OF THE PARANORMAL CREATURES WITHIN THEIR RANGE OF INFLUENCE.

BUT... BUT THERE AREN'T ALL THAT MANY FAE HERE.. IN FACT, THERE'S A HUGE NUMBER OF ALL SORTS OF PARANORMAL CREATURES HERE.

WE ARE.. SOMEWHAT UNIQUE HERE, BUT THAT'S GETTING LESS SO EVERY DAY. WHILE MOST REGIONS HAVE ONE PREDOMINANT ELDRITCH SPECIES, MORE AND MORE BLENDING IS OCCURRING.

YEAH, WE HAVE PLENTY OF DIFFERENT CREATURES AT HOME.

WELL, HOW'S YOUR LITTLE SYSTEM GONNA WORK THEN? AND HOW CAN I GET THESE DOGMEN UP NORTH TO LISTEN TO ME?

HOW SO?

HMM... PERHAPS WE WILL NEED SOME HELP.

THE SUMMER SOLSTICE IS IN A WEEK. IT IS AT THAT POINT THAT THE LEADERS OF THE VARIOUS FAE SPECIES GATHER TOGETHER IN TIRNANOG.. USUALLY, WE BRING... EXEMPLARY INDIVIDUALS WITH US, TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT SORT OF MAGICAL COMMUNITY WE ARE FOSTERING. I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE YOU TO COME WITH ME. PERHAPS WE CAN ASK FOR THEIR HELP IN THE MATTER.





I...

YOU DON'T HAVE WORK THAT DAY, AND YOUR SUMMER CLASS DOESN'T START UNTIL JULY.

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?

NEWS TRAVELS WELL ON THE WIND. BUT YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED ME. WILL YOU COME?



... SURE.

GOOD. YOU AND SEAMUS WILL ACCOMPANY ME THEN.



SEAMUS? WHAT ON EARTH MAKES HE OR I "EXEMPLARY?"

WELL, YOU ARE THE FIRST THREE-WAY HYBRID OF YOUR KIND... CALLED, BUT ALSO, AND ALT. YOU WERE ALL BUT BORN TO BE A WEREWOLF, BUT WERE BITTEN FIRST, CREATING A UNIQUE, SOMEWHAT FAULTY, UNHEARD OF HYBRID. AND SEAMUS MAY SEEM TO BE NOTHING SPECIAL... BUT HE'S FORGED A PHILOSOPHER'S STONE, SOMETHING UNSEEN FOR CENTURIES.



OH WOW... I HADN'T HEARD THAT HE FINISHED.



YES. NOW, IF YOU'LL PARDON ME... I MUST BE GOING. AND SAM SHOULD BE MAKING HIS WAY BACK HOME. MEET AT SEAMUS' LAB AT NOON ON THE SOLSTICE.



Help De

HEY JAY?  
I'M HERE TO SEE  
SEAMUS...

JAY WAS  
SENT HOME EARLY  
TODAY.

OHI HI...  
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU MUCH  
SINCE...

SINCE YOU DISREGARDED  
MY ADVICE AND RISKED HARMING THOSE  
AROUND YOU? HM. I HAVE BEEN BUSY COM-  
PLETING MY PROJECT.

OH... OHI YEAH,  
GAOTH TOLD ME ABOUT THAT...  
CONGRATULATIONS!

THANK YOU... IT'S A SHAME THAT  
IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH TO PULL ME BACK IN  
TIME TO SEE MY FAMILY.

WELL...  
ONE STEP AT A TIME,  
RIGHT?

YES, I SUPPOSE SO.

, I SEE YOU'RE BOTH  
HERE... GOOD. NOW... TIME FOR US TO GET TO THE  
EASIEST ACCESS POINT...

Gaoth lead  
us through  
the woods...  
woods I'd run  
through  
countless  
times. So  
many things  
had happened  
here... good  
times, bad  
times. Roms  
with friends  
and killer  
zombie... well,  
killer ghoul  
attacks. And  
then...

WAIT, ISN'T  
THIS THAT PLACE WHERE A BUNCH OF  
LEYLINES INTERSECT?

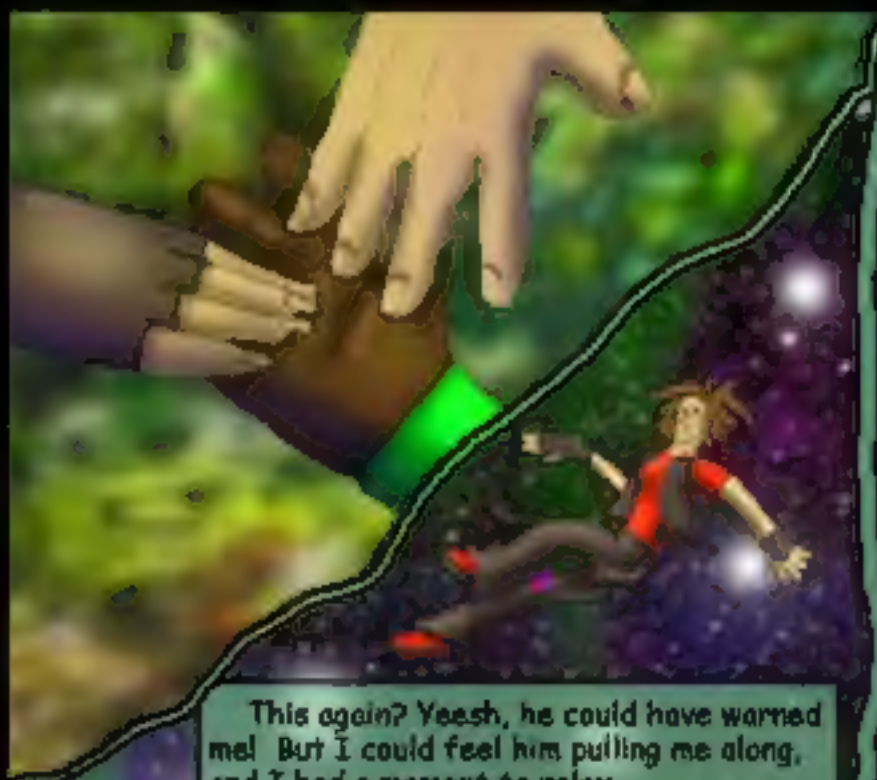
YES.

THOUGH SOME CREATURES  
CAN TRAVEL THROUGH JUST ANY LEYLINE,  
MOST REQUIRE INTERSECTING ONES TO  
TRAVEL, EVEN WHEN BEING TAKEN BY  
ANOTHER. LIKE MYSELF.

NOW, IF  
YOU'LL PLEASE JUST  
COME WITH ME...

COME WITH YOU WHERE--





This again? Yeesh, he could have warned me! But I could feel him pulling me along, and I had a moment to relax...

Behind me, I could see the... the star, the opening I came from, the whatever it was... dwindling... but as I thought about it, about wanting to be there... It grew larger... or rather... I drew closer. Or maybe I brought it closer to me.



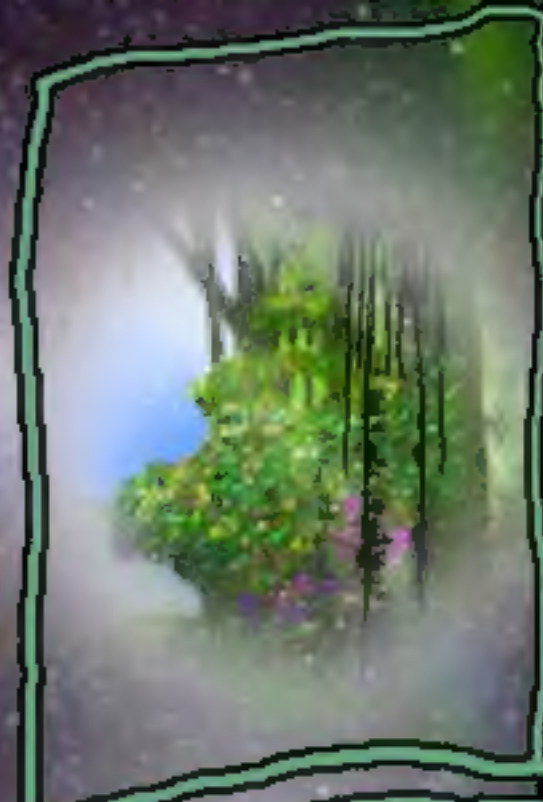
And as I looked around... when my interest was held by one window or another, I found that it became clearer some of them showed beautiful locals...



Others... did not.







WELCOME TO TIRNANOG--

EVERYTHING FEELS... WEIRD HERE...

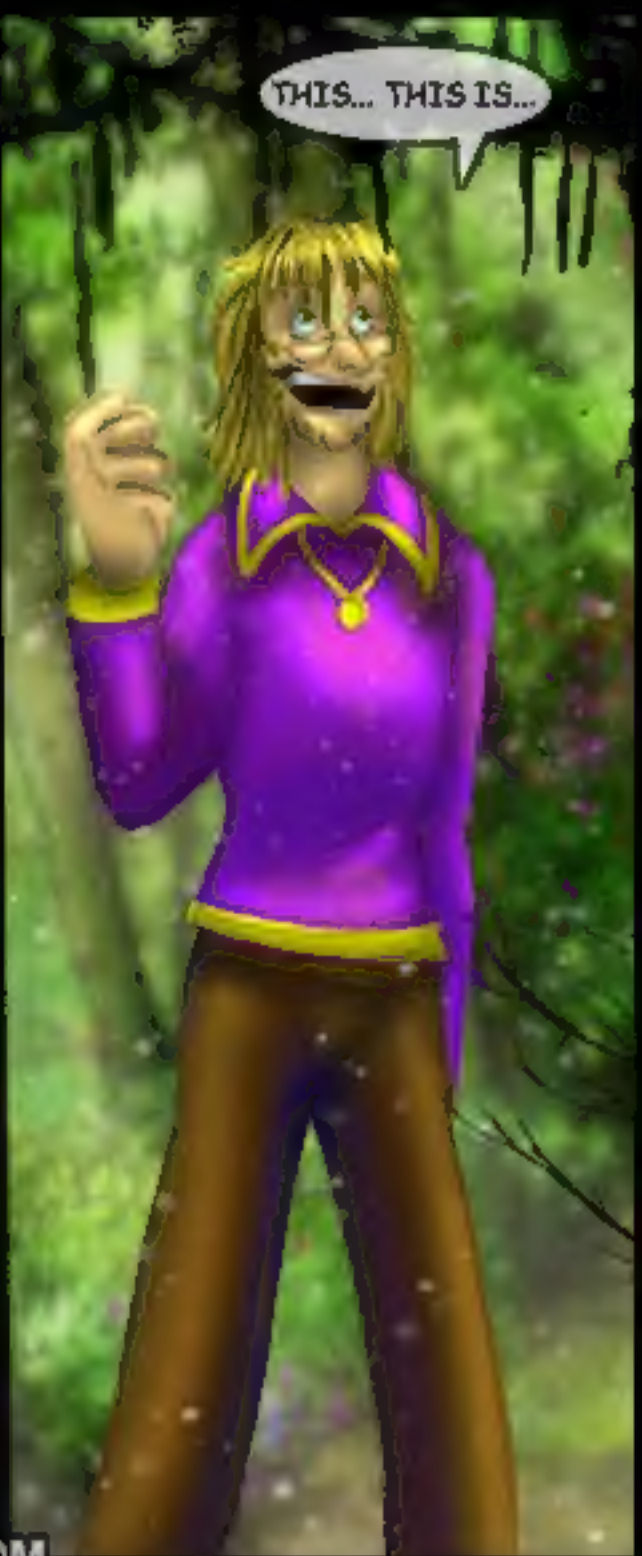
YOU MAKE IT QUITE DIFFICULT TO TRANSPORT YOU WHEN YOU KEEP PULLING AWAY LIKE THAT, FAITH.



WAS I REALLY PULLING THAT HARD?



SORRY.



THIS... THIS IS...



INCREDIBLE.



HOW...

I HAVE SOME GUESSES, BUT WITHOUT FURTHER STUDY, I CAN'T REALLY SAY--

I AM AFRAID THAT WE MUST BE GOING. HOWEVER, BEFORE WE DO, LET ME SET A FEW RULES. ONE: DO NOT IMPLY THAT YOU OWE ANYONE A FAVOR. TWO: DO NOT EAT ANYTHING HERE, AND DRINK ONLY IF YOU MUST--

NOT WITHOUT A LOT OF WORK, NO.

IS IT TRUE THAT IF WE DO SO, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE?

IS THAT BECAUSE OF DIFFERING MASS-TO-ENERGY RATIOS BETWEEN THE TWO DIMENSIONS, MEANING, THAT BY TRYING TO BRING SOMETHING TO OUR WORLD THAT DOES NOT BELONG THAT WE'D BE GOING AGAINST INTRADIMENSIONAL MEMBRANE FORCES AND--

AND FIVE... STICK WITH ME, NO MATTER WHAT.

The path was strange... The soft ground had an almost springy quality to it, like everything was alive. Almost everything smelled... wrong. The only thing that seemed to smell at all right was, strangely enough, water. However, it still seemed... off. Even the air had an odd, saccharine smell to it that I liked at first, but soon seemed... almost sickly sweet.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME, SEAMUS. THREE: AVOID LOOKING DIRECTLY INTO REFLECTIVE SURFACES FOR TOO LONG.

FOUR: BE POLITE, FAITH.



Out in the darker parts of the foliage were... little dancing lights... so pretty...



FAITH, DO NOT WANDER FROM THE PATH!



SORRY... I...



IT'S OKAY. MOST OTHERS WANT TO FOLLOW THEM TOO.



THIS... THIS PLACE IS INCREDIBLE. AMAZING.





OLD HABITS  
DIE HARD. HOW IS YOUR  
PROJECT GOING?

GAOTH!  
HOW ARE  
YOU?

HELLO MR. GOOD-  
FELLOW.

EVERYONE IS IN THE PROPER OFFICES. BUT I WAS WONDERING HOW YOUR UNIVERSITY  
PROJECT IS GOING? BRINGING HUMANS TO YOUR LITTLE SCHOOL TO EXPOSE THEM TO  
THE MULTITUDE OF MAGICAL ENERGIES SEEPING THROUGH THE LEYLINE CLUSTERS  
THERE TO SEE IF THEY CHANGE—

WHAT?!

OH... DID I SAY SOMETHING I WAS NOT SUPPOSED  
TO? I AM SO SORRY GAOTH...

YOU!



A comic book page with three panels. The background is a dark, dense forest with tall, thin trees and some colorful butterflies (purple, blue, red) fluttering around. In the first panel, a man in a dark hooded robe with a yellow cross on his chest (Rubezahl) is speaking to a group of people. In the second panel, a man in a brown tunic (Baath) is speaking. In the third panel, Rubezahl is speaking again, and a woman with long brown hair (Goth) is shown in a separate frame at the bottom.

WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING HERE YOU PSYCHO  
SON OF A--

I TOLD MY WARRIORS  
NOT TO DO ANY HARM TO YOU AND  
IN RETURN YOU RUINED ME! USE OUR  
WORLD WILL DIE BECAUSE YOU DISRUPTED  
OUR ORDER AND NOW THERE IS NO  
DEFENSE AGAINST--

SILENCE, RAULI  
HOW MANY TIMES MUST  
I TELL YOU TO HOLD YOUR  
TONGUE?

BAOTH. DO  
YOU REALIZE WHAT  
YOUR\_ BITCH HERE  
HAS DONE?

I WOULD  
IF YOU WERE TO TALK TO  
ME ABOUT SUCH THINGS, RATHER  
THAN LET YOUR HOUNDS OF GOD  
KIDNAP ONE OF MY CHARGES. SHE  
IS PART OF MY PROJECT AND YOU  
HAVE BECOME VERY QUIET ABOUT  
YOUR HOUNDS OF GOD PROJECT  
OVER THE PAST CENTURIES.  
TYPICAL OF THE UNSEELIE,  
I ADMIT...

BAOTH WHAT'S  
GOING ON? WHO IS  
THIS GUY?

I DO NOT LOWER MYSELF WITH A HUMAN-WORLD  
NAME LIKE MOST OF MY KIN. I AM MERELY HE  
WHO CALLS. I APPEAR DIFFERENTLY TO DIFFER-  
ENT PEOPLE. TO THE AGRARIAN BENANDANTI, I  
AM THE ANGEL WHO LEADS THEM TO THEIR  
CALLING. TO THE HOUNDS OF GOD, I AM THE  
CRIPPLE WHO LEADS THEM TO WAR AGAINST THE  
MELANDANTI

YOU KNOW, THERE ARE...  
ROUMORS THAT YOUR PROJECT  
ISN'T HOLDING THE MELANDANTI  
AT BAY. THAT SOME ARE SNEAK-  
ING THROUGH AT THE TURNING  
OF THE SEASONS--

HOLD YOUR TONGUE RUBEZAHLI



HOW  
DARE YOU REVEAL MY  
NAME BEFORE ALL OF  
THESE--

THAT IS ENOUGH.

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

WE ARE SORRY, LORD AND LADY

PSSSSST  
FAITH. BOW

NO, IT IS ALRIGHT,  
LITTLE WOLFLING. PLEASE,  
EVERYONE STAND.

HOW. TELL US WHAT  
HE CAUSED THIS UNBIE  
BEHAVIOUR.

I DIDNT  
DO ANYTHING TO PROVOKE  
HIM, I WAS JUST STAND-  
ING HERE!

LORD OBERON, THIS  
BIT.. WOLFLING OF RUBEZ.. OF  
GAOTH'S COMPROMISED MY PROJECT  
AND THEN, WHILE HERE,  
PROVOKED MY--

FAITH!  
DON'T SPEAK UNLESS SPOKEN  
TO!

NO.. I AM CURIOUS AS TO WHAT THIS LITTLE WOLFLING HAS TO  
SAY. HE DOES VERY IMPORTANT WORK, WORK THAT IS VITAL TO  
THE PROTECTION OF YOUR WORLD. YOU DO NOT DENY COMPROM-  
ISING HIS PROJECT. DID YOU DAMAGE HIS WORK?



LADY, UM...

CALL ME LADY TITANIA, PLEASE

LADY TITANIA, IF I COMPROMISED HIS PROJECT, IT WAS DONE OUT OF SELF-DEFENSE. HIS PEOPLE KIDNAPPED ME, AND I DID WHAT I HAD TO ESCAPE AND RETURN HOME.

GNOTH! DID HE APPROACH YOU FOR A TRANSFER REQUEST?

HE HAD NOT

EXPLAIN YOURSELF.

HER BLOODLINE COMES FROM MY AREA OF INFLUENCE. SHE IS MINE TO RECLAIM--

THAT IS NOT HOW THIS WORKS ANYMORE AND YOU KNOW THAT. SHE IS UNDER GNOTH'S CARE. I KNOW YOU HAVE A CERTAIN DISSENT FROM THE RULES, BUT IF YOU WERE GOING TO RECLAIM HER, YOU SHOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL SHE LIVES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ANOTHER CREATURE--

BUT MY PROJECT NEEDED HER RIGHT THEN! AND SHE... SHE INCITED A RIOT! DESCENT! THE AGRARIAN BENANDANTI ROSE UP--THEY KILLED SO MANY OF MY HOUNDS OF GOD. AFTER YEARS AND YEARS OF SELECTIVE BREEDING TO BRING OUT THEIR INTRAREALM ABILITIES! MY PROJECT IS CRIPPLED UNTIL I CAN BREED MORE AND--

WHAT WERE YOUR HOUNDS OF GOD NOT SUPPOSED TO BE PROTECTING THEIR DIMENSION FROM THE MELANDANTI? WHAT IS PROTECTING IT NOW?

WELL, I WAS GOING TO BRING THAT UP ONCE THE MEETING STARTED, BUT--

YOU FOOL! THE VEIL IS THIN AT THE CHANGING OF SEASONS! WERE YOUR HOUNDS NOT ABLE TO BATTLE THEM ADEQUATELY IN SPRING?

OF COURSE NOT! EVERYTHING WAS THROWN OUT OF BALANCE!

DO YOU NOT THINK THAT PERHAPS THEY HAVE WORKED OUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

EVERYONE! RETURN HOME! PREPARE YOUR WARPS! THE HOUNDS OF GOD PROJECT HAS FAILED! BEING THE SUMMER SOLSTICE, THE VEIL IS THIN! THE MELANDANTI MAY TRY TO COME THROUGH! REMEMBER, THEY WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING THEY CAN FEEDING FROM IT AND GROWING STRONGER. THEY MUST BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY. IF YOUR REGION IS UNAFFECTED, SEND HELP TO THOSE REGIONS WITH LEYLINE CLUSTERS--

LEYLINE CLUSTERS... WAIT? LIKE MAPLEVIEW?

EXACTLY LIKE MAPLEVIEW



OH GOD... NO. NONONO, I HAVE TO  
GET HOME, I HAVE TO DO SOME-  
THING ABOUT THIS...



I felt a wave of cold fear washed over  
me.. but in its wake, there was a certain  
determined strength the deepened into  
calmness supporting that buzz of fear

Wait... How did  
I..? Where... where  
am I... I..



Okay, home. I  
need to go home.  
Where is home  
though? No.. no..

Trees! That could be it! Is that it?  
Maybe I could just close and—



Augh! Too close!



NO..  
NO, THIS ISN'T  
RIGHT



GOTTA... MAYBE IF  
I... IF I CONCENTRATE...

OH COME ON! AUGH!

OKAY... HOW... HOW DID I JUST  
DO IT? I WAS SCARED, BUT...  
WAIT I WAS CALM. NO... I WAS  
BOTH. I WASN'T LETTING PANIC  
OVERWHELM ME. I JUST KNEW I  
HAD TO GO.

I can't explain how I did it. It was though I just slipped  
through the cracks. That my reality just flowed away around and  
through me. Okay... home... no... no... there! I recognize that!

I JUST HAVE TO... I HAVE TO...











WELL,  
THAT SEEMS EFFEC-  
TIVE...



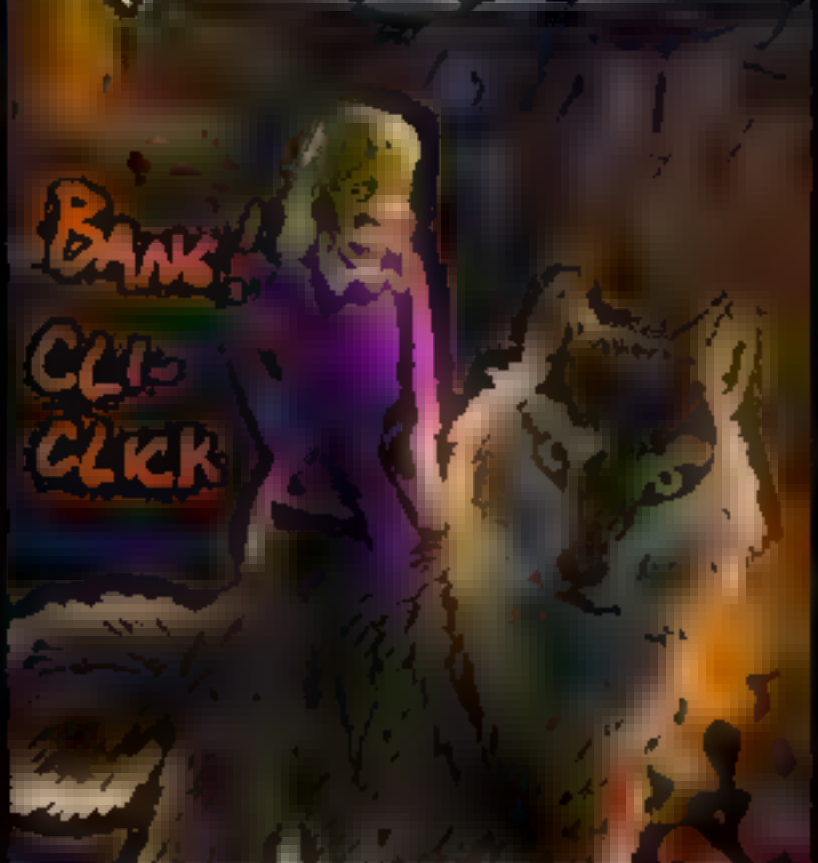
WHAT WAS  
THAT THING? HOW DID  
YOU GET A CAR? WHAT'S  
GOING—

THE DRIVER WAS DEAD, SUCK'D DRY IN  
THE FRONT SEAT I JUST BORROWED IT  
COME ON, FAITH, WE HAVE TO GO—

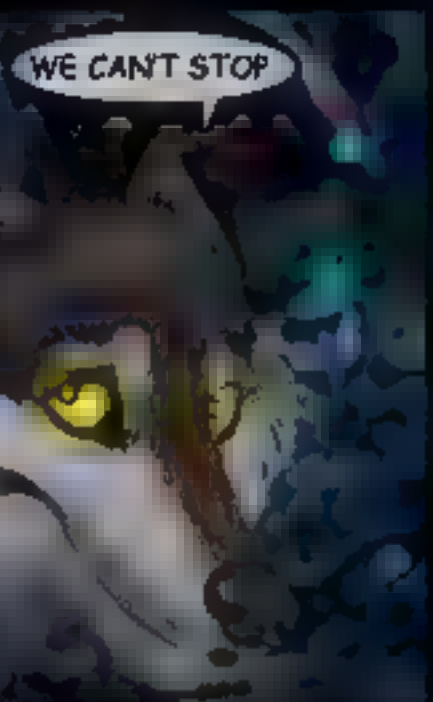
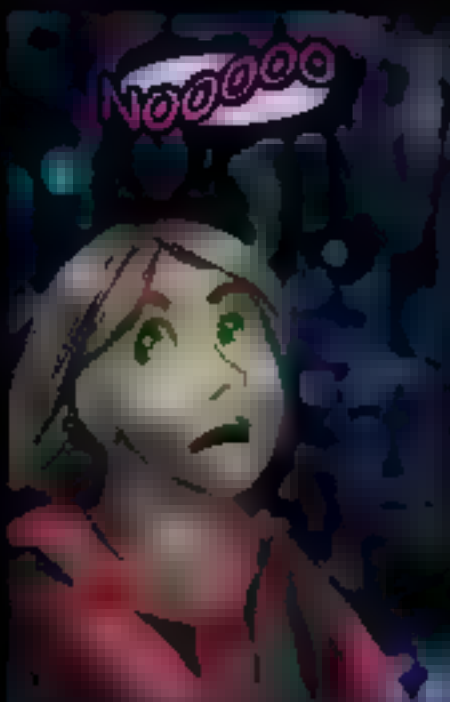


GO WHERE?

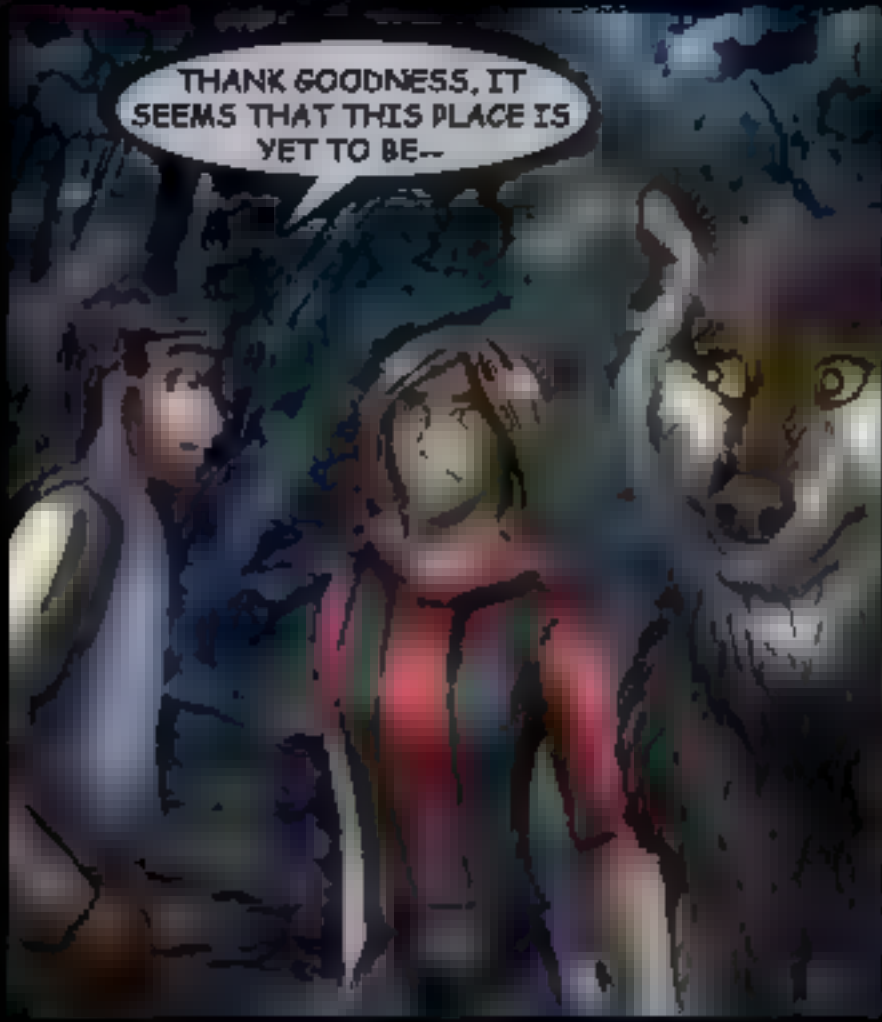
MY LAB. I THINK I CAN STOP THESE THINGS  
FROM CROSSING THROUGH LEYLINES TO HERE.



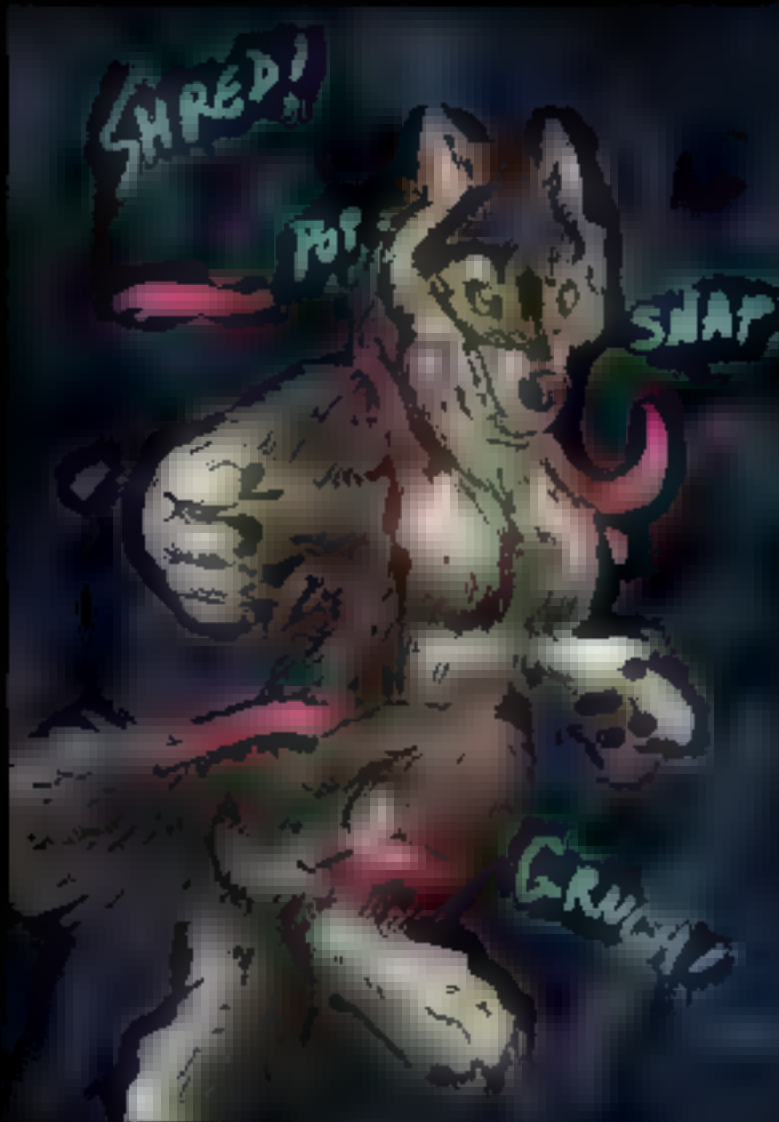










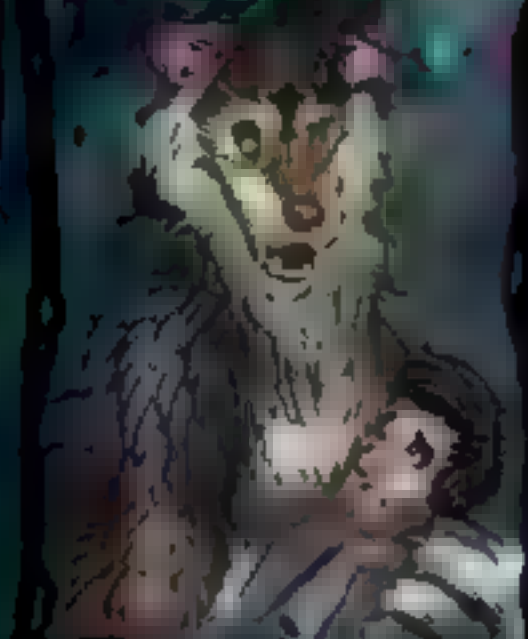
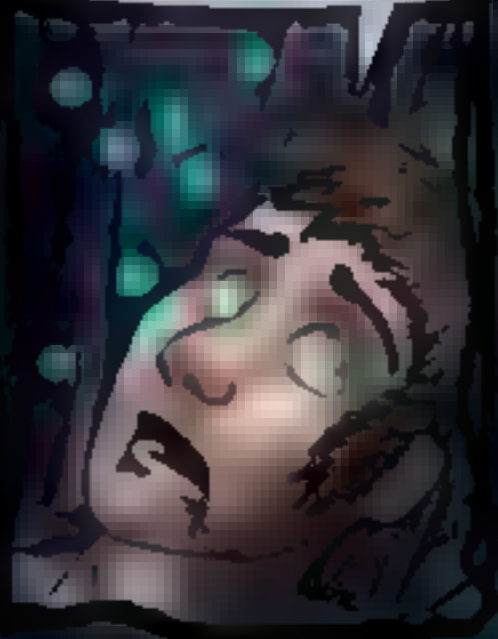




THERE'S.. NO GOOD WAY  
TO GET ME TO A HOSPITAL  
ASSUMING THEY'RE NOT  
OVERRUN WITH BUGS.

I.. DON'T THINK THERE'S  
ANYTHING YOU CAN DO..

THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING—



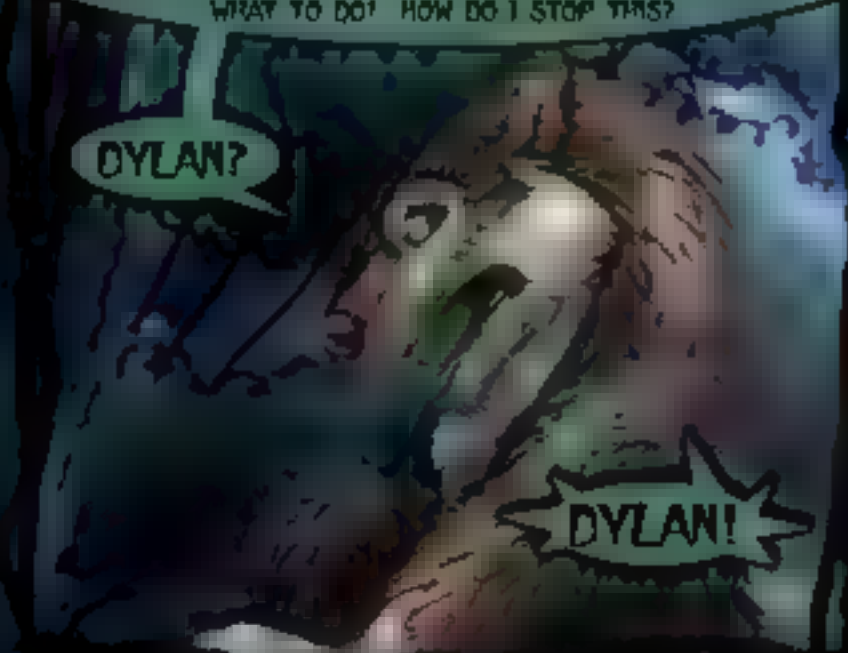
YOU..  
YOU GOTTA.. DON'T BLAME  
YOURSELF FOR WHAT YOU  
ARE

YOU CAN'T  
CHANGE THAT.. BUT  
YOU CAN CHOOSE WHO  
YOU ARE



DYLAN, THAT DOESN'T HELP ME HELP YOU! YOU ALWAYS  
GIVE GOOD ADVICE.. EVEN WHEN I DON'T REALIZE IT IS AT THE  
TIME.. AND I'M NEVER AS GRATEFUL AS I SHOULD BE, AND I'M  
SORRY, BUT THIS ISN'T GOING TO HELP YOU! TELL ME  
WHAT TO DO! HOW DO I STOP THIS?

DYLAN?



DYLAN!



AKREEE!

I CAN'T, RRRR KILL IT.  
TOO TOUGH. IMMOBILIZED IT  
THOUGH WE NEED TO GET INSIDE  
THERRE COULD BE MORE

IT NEEDS TO DIE!

WE CAN'T GET  
THROUGH THE ARMORRR. IT  
CAN'T HURT ANYONE WE NEED  
TO GET TO SAFETY

BUT

DYLAN WOULD WANT YOU SAFE



THUD!



TODD?

I'M FINE RED I'M JUST  
GOING TO, RRR. GUARD THE DOOR  
I'LL SHOUT IF THERE'S A PROBLEM  
GO HELP SEAMUS.





TIME IS LIKE A RIVER... A RIVER ONLY MOVES FORWARD AND WHILE WE ALL MAY CHANGE OUR DIRECTION IN THE RIVER TO SOME EXTENT, I... I SOMETIMES SLIP INTO A DIFFERENT CURRENT THAN EVERYONE ELSE, A FASTER ONE I HAVE NO POWER OF MY OWN, I AM FORCED ALONG WITH THE POWER OF TIME... BUT WITH THIS... WITH THIS I WILL HAVE MY OWN POWER A BOAT TO CARRY ME UPSTREAM



--BUT HOW CAN I GET IT TO DRAW POWER THROUGH THE INTRADIMENSIONAL MEMBRANES? WITH MATERIALS FROM ONLY THIS DIMENSION COMPRISING THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE THERE'S NO WAY TO CONNECT IT TO THE AETHERIC STRINGS OF..



FAITH! ARE YOU OKAY?

TODD? DYLAN?

I'LL LIVE



TODD'S HURT, BUT OKAY HE'S GUARDING THE DOOR



SO DYLAN.

HE WAS A GOOD KID



HE HE WAS. NOW SHOW ME HOW WE'RE GONNA STOP THIS LET'S GET THOSE SOBS OF BITCHES.



I'M NOT SO SURE I CAN... THE RED MERCURY IS READY TO GO, BUT THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE...IN ORDER TO STOP THEM, I'D NEED SOMETHING FROM THEIR DIMENSION TO ALLOW IT TO AFFECT THE INTRADIMENSIONAL MICROFT.

NO SCIENCE TALK, GIVE IT STRAIGHT!

IT'S LIKE TRYING TO RUN A MAC PROGRAM ON A PC. UNLESS I CAN INCORPORATE MATERIAL, SOFTWARE FROM THEIR DIMENSION, I CAN'T GET IT TO RUN.



WHAT ABOUT MONSTER BLOOD?

IF THE STONE IS POROUS ENOUGH, THE BLOOD MIGHT ACT AS A CARRIER...

SO. THIS IS GONNA CUT THEIR DIMENSION OFF FROM OURS? KEEP THEM FROM CROSSING OVER?



NO I'M GOING TO COLLAPSE THEIR DIMENSION ENTIRELY. I'M GOING TO USE THEIR DIMENSION TO FUEL MY TIME MACHINE. IF IT'S THE SAME SIZE AS OURS, IT'LL SEND ME BACK HOME. IF IT'S SMALLER, THEIR DIMENSION WILL STILL COLLAPSE, BUT I'LL DIE ALONG

BUT WHAT IF IT'S BIGGER?

THEN IT WILL BE TOO UNSTABLE TO CONTINUE. ANY EXCESS WILL LIKELY BE CONVERTED TO AETHERIC AND MAGICAL ENERGY... PROBABLY LIGHT TOO, AND SOME

WHERE WILL ALL THAT GO IF THE DIMENSION COLLAPSES?



IT'LL SPILL OVER HERE

BUT THAT COULD HURT PEOPLE--

AND SO CAN THE MONSTERS

BUT WHAT IF THERE ARE OTHER CREATURES IN THAT DIMENSION? ONES THAT AREN'T BAD? CAN'T WE JUST KILL THESE NASTY MO-





THEY  
AREN'T YOUR CONCERN  
NOW

BUT WHAT  
IF IT DOESN'T WORK? WHAT IF IT  
DRAWS ENERGY FROM OUR DIMENSION  
INSTEAD?

IT WON'T YOU HAVE TO  
BELIEVE IN ME. THIS IS OUR  
BEST, AND ONLY SHOT

GOODBYE FAITH.

SEAMUS!

WHAT HAPPENED?

HOW?

SEAMUS IS GONE—

HE USED HIS MACHINE  
TO TRY TO DESTROY THE BAD GUY'S HOME...  
I... TODD, THERE'S NOTHING MORE I CAN DO  
HERE. I HAVE TO GO

WHAT? WHERE? WHY?

I HAVE  
TO MAKE SURE MAGGIE IS  
OKAY

YOU CAN'T GO  
THROUGH THE WOODS BY YOURSELF—THERE  
COULD BE DOZENS OF THOSE THINGS OUT  
THERE

WHAT?

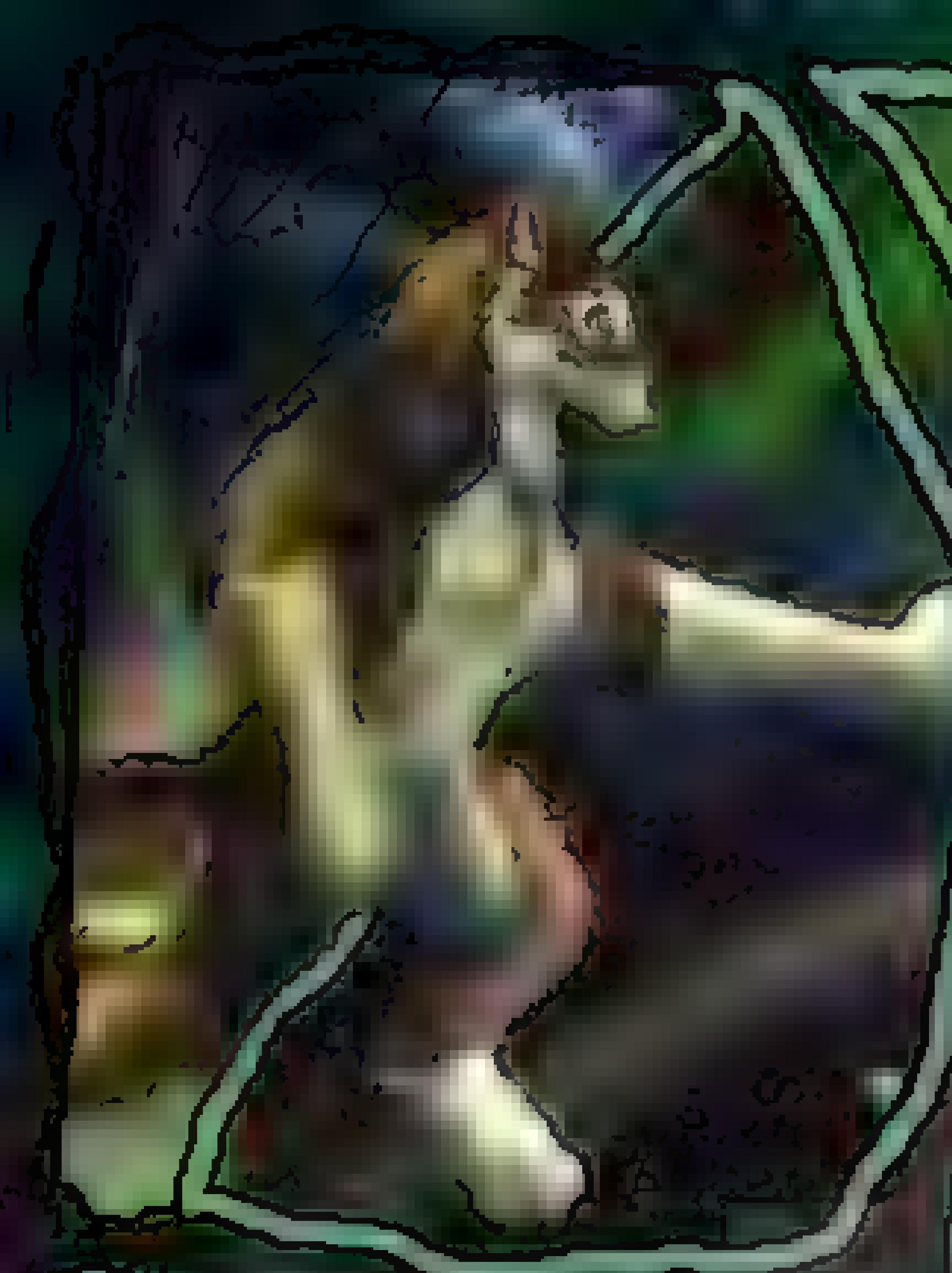
I'M NOT GOING THROUGH THE WOODS

TRUST ME, I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.

LIGHT... SEAMUS WAS RIGHT

The air felt strange... like it was charged with  
static electricity... magic, flowing through the  
eyelines.

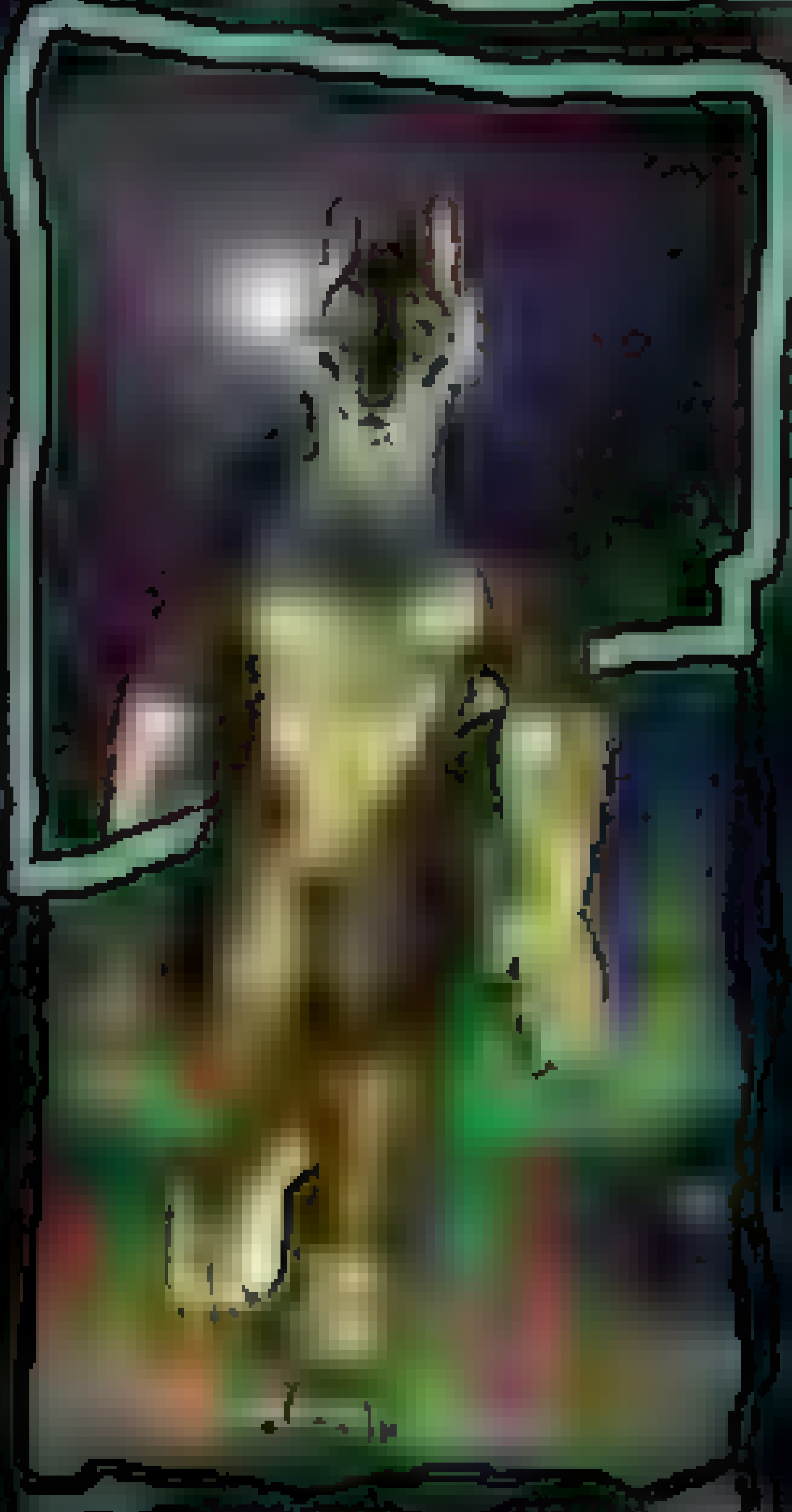
I HOPE I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.



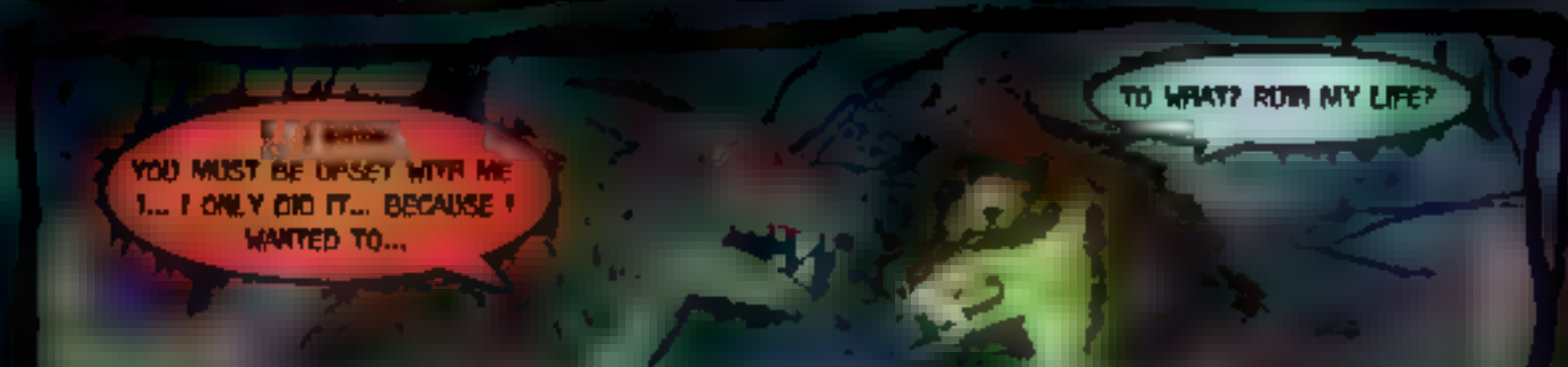
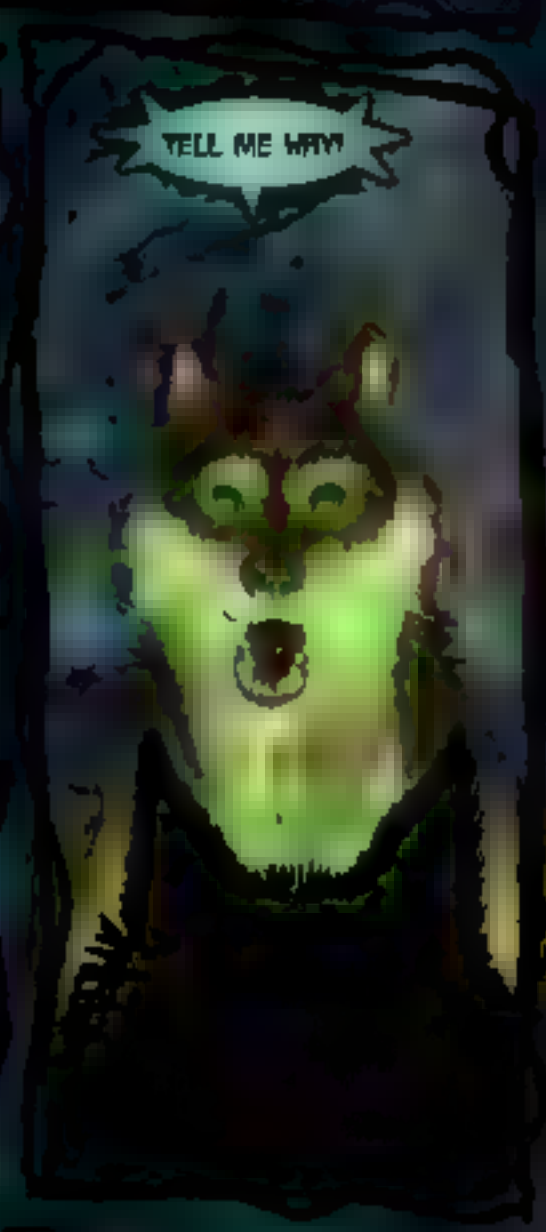
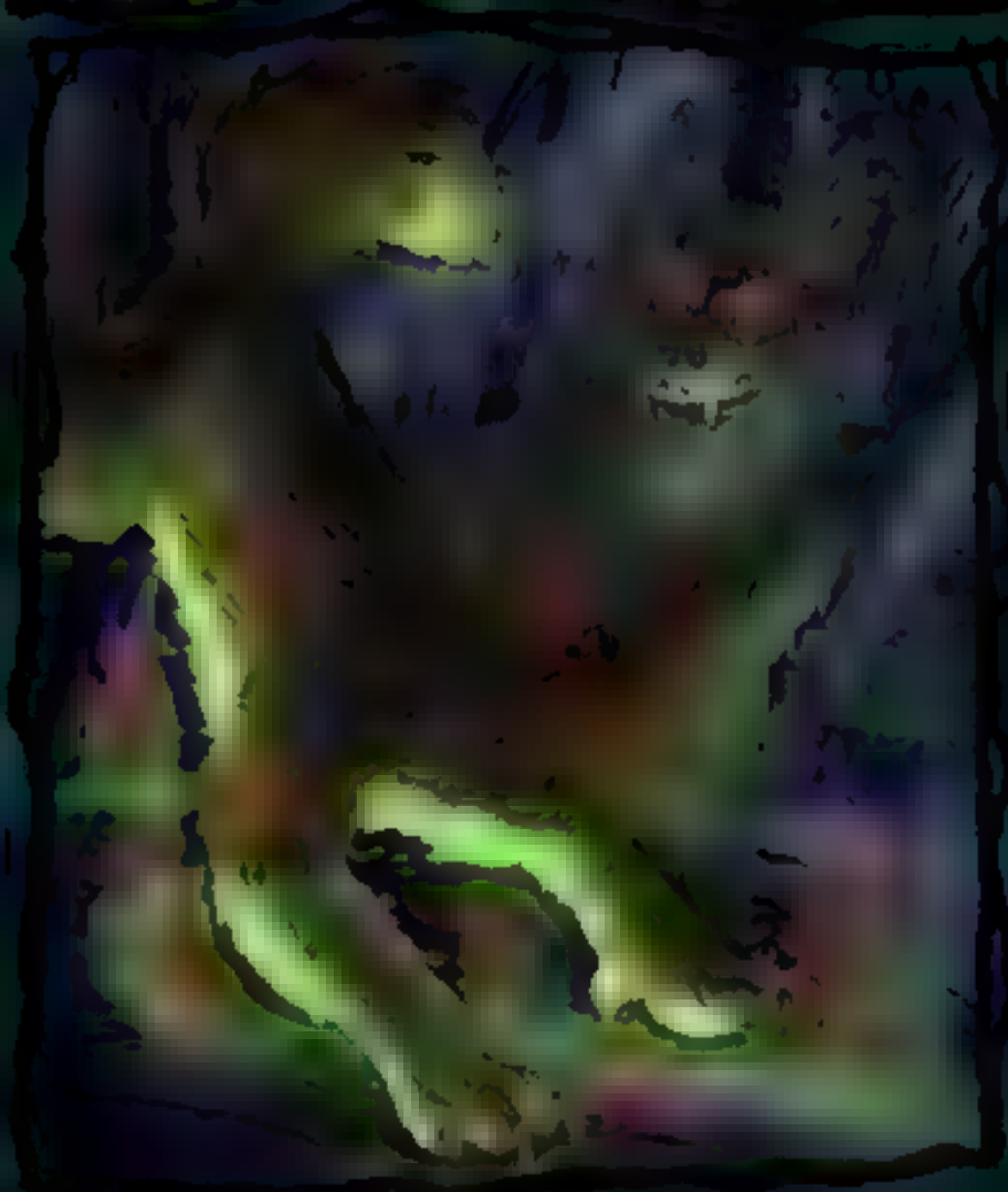
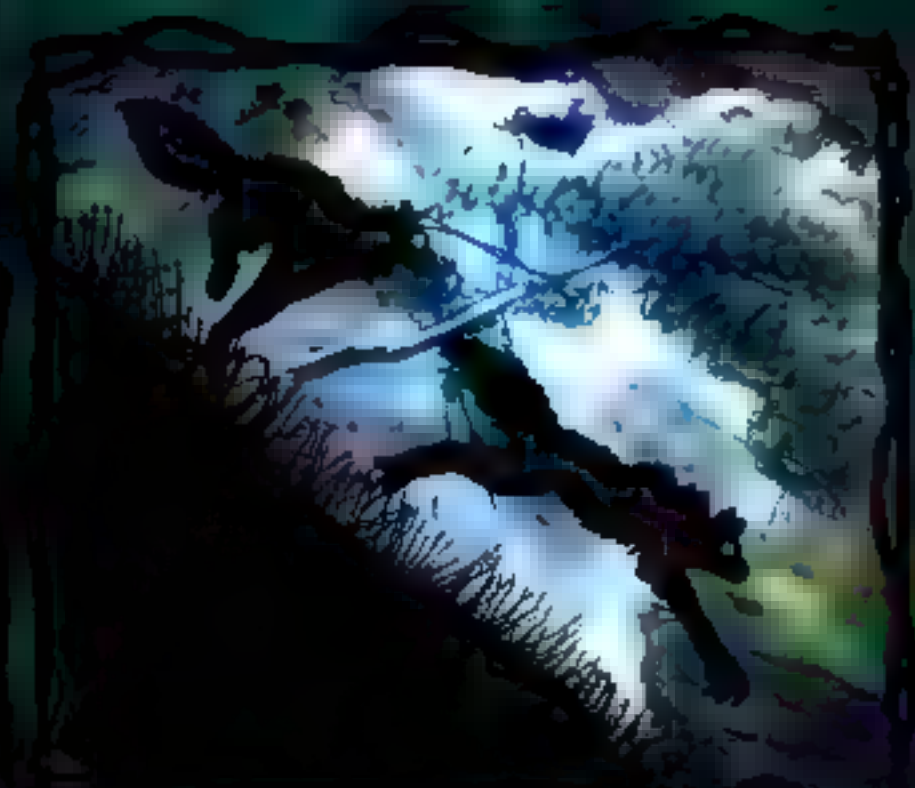
I Hope.



Okay there are lots of ley lines here, right? So... there's gotta be one by Maggie's house. Come one, come on... wait! That's close! YES







WITH THE FAE RESOURCES HERE, I FIGURED YOU'D BE OKAY. I JUST SAW THE OPPORTUNITY AND TOOK IT. I DIDN'T THINK IT THROUGH! I WAS STUPID. THERE'S NOTHING I REGRET MORE... IT'S WHY I TRIED TO CHECK UP ON SOMEONE. I TRIED TO FIND OUT WHO WAS THE ONE WHO KILLED MY DEAR, BUT US ALL, SO NO ONE WOULD BE KILLED LIKE MY DEAR, DEAR--

LAUREN?  
SHE'S ALIVE, YOU  
IDIOT!

WHAT?

SHE WAS  
TRUCKED DOWN SOUTH. SHE'S  
AFTER LIVING WITH THE ROOGA-  
ROO

GOD, HOW  
DO SELFISH, IDIOTIC,  
IMPULSIVE MONSTERS LIKE  
YOU ALWAYS GET ELECTED  
TO OFFICE?

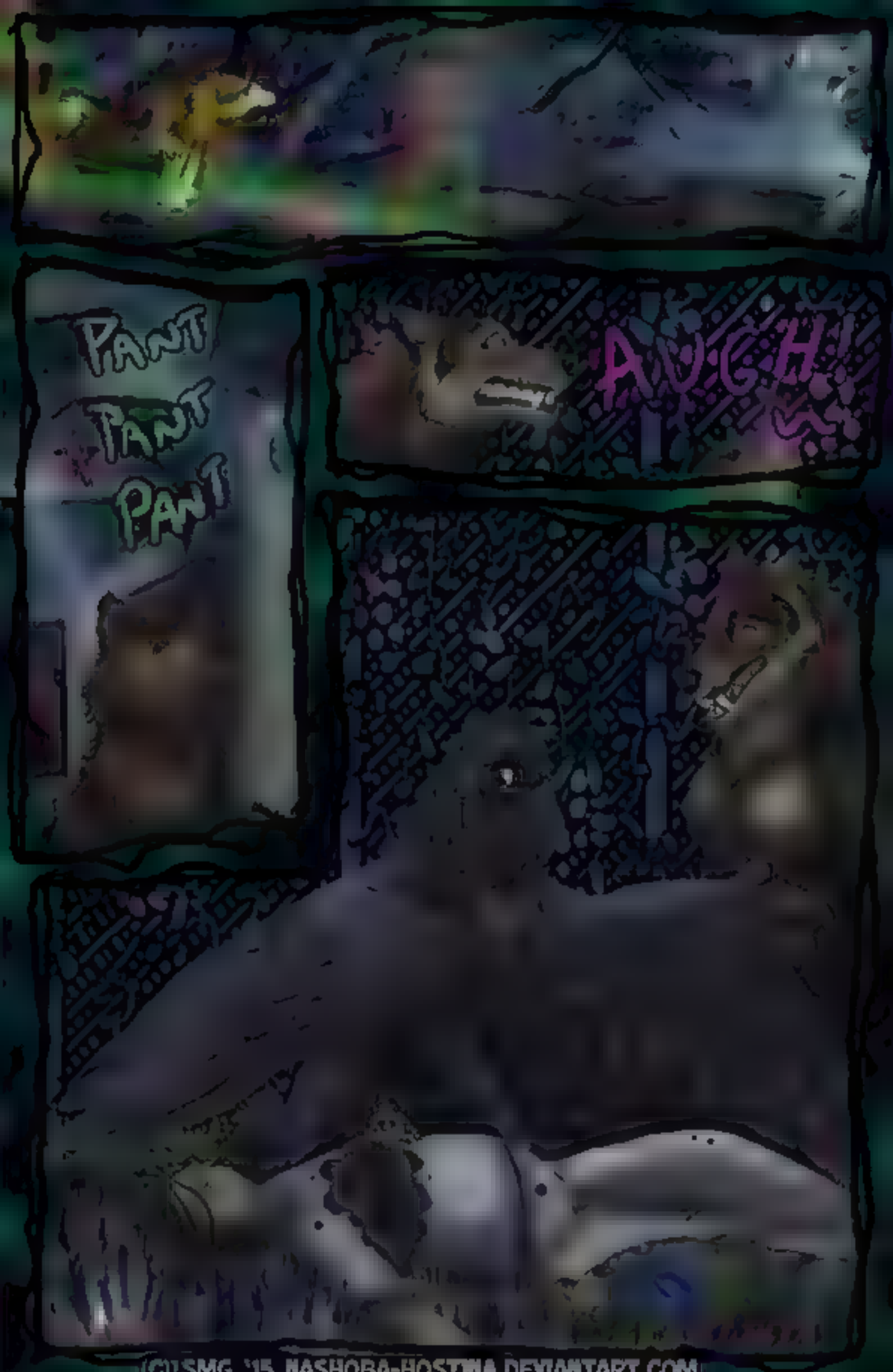
DOES.  
DOES SHE REMEMBER  
ME?

HISS

SNARL

RAWR!





FATH... THANK  
GOODNESS, I... JAYZEUS, I CAN'T SEEM TO KNOW  
HOW DOWN FOR LONG.

TODD AND I TRIED TO KILL ONE

TRIED? BUT TODD IS SO BIG

WE COULD  
ONLY MANAGE TO RIP ITS  
LEGS OFF

IS... IS IT...?

LAUGHING  
YES, 'LITTLE PEST,' YES, I AM  
LAUGHING.

WHY?

I SCENT THE BEYONDANTI BLOOD IN YOU. THE REEK OF THE  
SPACE BETWEEN SPACES. AND YET, YOU ARE STILL  
UNWARE. OTHERWISE, YOU WOULD HAVE ACTED ALREADY. I  
WILL DRAW YOU AND YOUR FRIEND, SAME AS I DID PER  
MOTHER.

I HAVE BEEN DRAWING THE LIFE OF YOUR REAM FOR CENTU-  
RIES, AND YOUR KING HAVE YET TO KILL MELANDANTI  
SKEYSTAH. YOU AND YOUR OBVIOUS IGNORANCE ARE NO  
THREAT TO ME.





SKREE!!



WHAT

WEEZE



HE'S... IT'S  
LIKE HE'S GOING INTO ANAPHYLACTIC  
SHOCK!

HE'S ALLERGIC TO THE FLOWERS!

HE'S WHAT?

FENNEL... HE'S ALLERGIC  
TO FENNEL. THE BENDANTTI SAID THAT  
FENNEL WAS A WEAPON OF THEIRS...

WE DON'T NEED BRUTE FORCE—



YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE? YOU'RE JUST  
A BIG FLEA! AND SOMEONE ONCE TOLD  
ME THAT FENNEL REPELS FLEAS,  
ASSHOLE!

HISS

HOW ABOUT WE JUST  
HOLD YOU HERE, THEN.

GAS?

... DYLAN??

DIDN'T THINK YOU'D GET RID OF ME THAT EASILY,  
DID YOU?



BUT BUT I SAW YOU.

MY PHYSICAL BODY DIED. IT TOOK ME A  
LITTLE WHILE TO RECOVERATE THOUGH...

WAIT WHAT?

AND... AND YOU CAN TOUCH THINGS.

IT SEEMS THAT, WITHOUT NEEDING TO  
MAINTAIN A PHYSICAL BODY, MY SPIRIT  
SELF CAN BECOME CORPOREAL.

WAIT YOU DIED??

I GOT BETTER.

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?!

WHY IS EVERYONE  
SO CALM ABOUT THIS?!!

CAN YOU FIGHT?

I CAN.

GODD. BECAUSE  
WE CAN END THIS. AND WE'RE  
GOING TO.

We grabbed all of the fennel we could... And then, we spread the word.

YEAH! FENNEL! POST IT EVERYWHERE YOU CAN AND THEN GET ALL YOU CAN FROM THE MARKET! TELL EVERYONE!



AUGH! ARE YOU...

WE'RE HERE TO HELP KILL THE BUGS. WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS.



And then... It began to rain Fennel.



Unfortunately, the influx of magic from the collapsed dimension was causing problems of its own.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? WHY DO I LOOK LIKE THIS?



THAT'S FOR MY BOY, YOU SON OF A BITCH!

I JUST GOT SOMETHING OVER THE RADIO. THERE'S A WEREWOLF REHABILITATION CAMP OUT IN WISCONSIN SAYING THEY NEED ASSISTANCE. THEY'RE ON THE WAY TO THE NEXT BENANDANTI FENNEL STASH. LET'S KEEP THE FENNEL FALLING UNTIL WE GET THERE, PEOPLE!





WE'RE WINNING.

WHAT IF WE ALL RUN  
OUT OF FENNEL?

FENNEL'S EASY TO GROW

DO YOU THINK WE'LL GET  
THEM ALL?

WE WILL

TODD!

HEY RED. AND GOOD TO SEE  
YOU'RE... STILL HERE DYLAN.

MORE OR LESS.

THINGS... FEEL WEIRD.

IT'S THE MAGIC PUMPING OUT  
OF THOSE LEYLINES.

SEANUS SAID THAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF  
THEIR DIMENSION WAS BIGGER THAN OURS.

THIS IS GORNA CHANGE  
EVERYTHING, ISNT IT? PEOPLE WILL  
KNOW ABOUT US.

IT'S GONNA  
TO BE A DIFFERENT WORLD, COME  
DAWN.

BUT AT LEAST WE HAVE A WORLD TO LIVE  
IN. IT'S STILL OURS. AND WE HAVE EACH  
OTHER.





## Eldritch epilogue: 7 Years Later

TELL ME, WHY DO YOU THINK THAT THE REMAINING HUMAN POPULATION REFER TO THE ELDRITCH FOLK AS 'ARCS'?

IT'S SHORT FOR 'ARCANE'. THEY DON'T WANT TO USE THE TERM WE ALREADY HAVE FOR THEMSELVES... WORDS HAVE POWER, AND USING THEIR OWN TERM MAKES THEM FEEL AS THOUGH THEY HAVE MORE POWER--

OOP, GONNA HAVE TO CUT YOU OFF, BUT HOLD THAT THOUGHT, WE'LL GET TO THAT AFTER THE COMMERCIAL BREAK, AND AFTER THAT, WE'RE GOING TO TALK TO THE MOST RECENT WITNESS TO A MELANDANTI SIGHTING--



It only took a few years for someone to work out a way to shield against magical energy. Turns out that an iron alloy worked a lot like lead does when it comes to radiation protection, though, there are several other factors that I frankly never learned the ins and outs of. Last year, the first shielded, underground city was completed by some of the remaining humans. It was pitched as a sanctuary for those who were sensitive to magic, but truth was, it's meant to keep people like me out... assuming that's even possible. It's for folks who want nothing to do with the new world, who want only to keep with other humans... and those who fear what they may become if left exposed to magic any longer. I hear that three more massive, shielded, human-only cities will be finished by the end of this year.

The calamity changed the world.



The excess magical energy from the collapsed dimension seeped into the nearest low-magic dimension... our dimension.

As it turned out... some people and animals have a low tolerance for magic. You know how some people supposedly get sick while entering haunted houses? Turns out that those houses were built on ley-lines, and they couldn't handle the magical energies. When the world was flooded with magic... well... a lot of people grew ill... and slowly died.

Over time, more and more people who had any inkling of magical heritage found themselves blessed, or cursed, with magical abilities they'd never expected. As it turned out, a huge number of eldritch folk had been in the governments around the world... and though there were a couple of years of... well, of chaos... the eldritch folk already in place helped us all regain order.

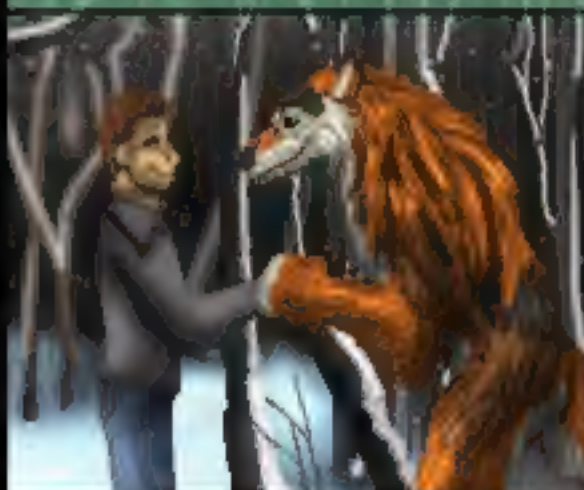




Once things settled down, Travis turned himself in to the Eldritch authorities. He's doing time at Camp Hero, guarded by his friend Feylan. Strangely enough, he says he's happy. People are aware of werewolves, and the odds of fatalities due to mistaken identities are far less than they had been. Technically, he got what he'd wanted all along. And he has the one thing back that he thought he'd lost forever. Lauren moved out to New York, and she visits him every day, though she does keep in regular contact with the Roogaroo, who, strangely enough, seem almost untouched by the whole thing.



A couple of years ago, Ron's Werewolf rehabilitation camp got government funding. Now he and his friend Remmy can really help people. You know, I moved out there to help for a while to help. Maybe I'll tell you about it sometime.



Levi, Ty, and the rest of The Flying Dutchman's crew are still doing what they do best: sailing through the sea and sky. Officially, they stay in the realm of legality, since they were officially pardoned of their less than legal activities in the past, because they helped with the Calamity. But I hear rumors of them doing some shady things now and again.



Gaath was furious at Seamus for his rash actions, but there was nothing he could do. Seamus was gone. Turns out he'd left a will at the research center, he'd said that in the event that he got the machine to work, everything he owned would divert to Jay, so long as he promised to continue running the center. Turns out, Seamus had enough money put away that Jay was basically set for life, he quit his job and started running the center full time. In his off time, he and Maggie spend a lot of time playing old video games these days. Maggie insists that she has no romantic interest in him and that they're just friends, but I think they're dating.



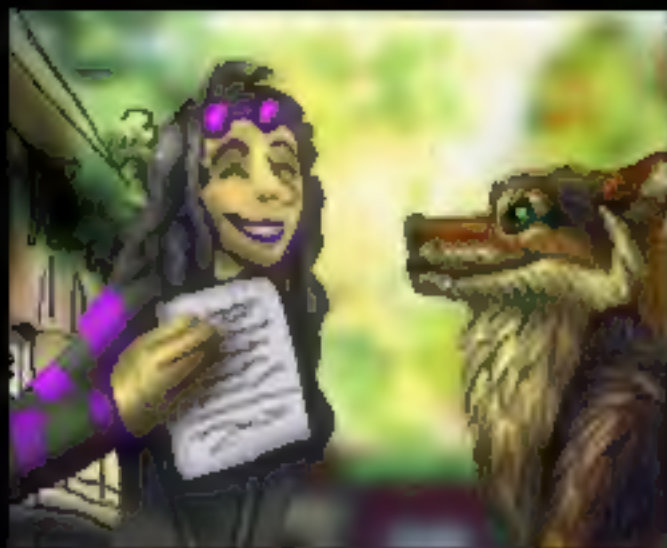
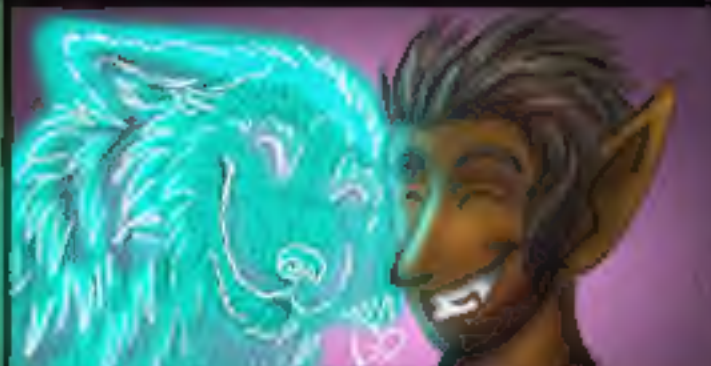
I don't see Gaath much anymore. He has fave business a lot, and apparently he can't tell us what he's up to. However, he gave the layline to Todd, who finally got over his dislike of vampires enough to hire Sam on as a bartender. Turns out he's really good. And, I finally gave Todd a real chance. Several chances actually. We've dated off and on since the calamity, and though I keep saying it probably won't go anywhere, you never know.

I don't hear much about the remaining Benandanti. Some say that the Melandanti wiped them out. Some say they're in hiding, or dispersed. And others still say that they're hunting down any Melandanti that survived the calamity. People still claim to see them from time to time, and now, almost every house has Fennel growing out front.





We buried Dylan's body next to Dr. K's, and every spring, we plant fennel on their graves. Thankfully, Dylan's spirit is still here. I'd thought he was going to be my spirit guide, but he actually ended up being Jay's. I was more than disappointed, but I got over it. When Dylan isn't keeping Jay from screwing things up, he's spending time with Sam. They've been dating for six years now, and I've heard them discuss things like marriage more than once. Truth is, Maggie's just dying for one of them to pop the question.



When colleges and such eventually started back up after the calamity, Maggie never went back. She dropped out before she'd even decided on a major. I think the loss of her mother made it too hard for her to get back into the swing of things. However, she began self-publishing small informational pamphlets to help people understand what was going on... and soon after started a newspaper column giving advice to those who needed it regarding the changes in the world. Though her column was sometimes too optimistic for me to take seriously, turns out, it's what people needed to hear. She makes enough to live comfortably, and has been pestering me for ever to move in, which I'll be doing next week. We hang out all the time anyway, just the two of us, might as well save on gasoline and running/flying time.

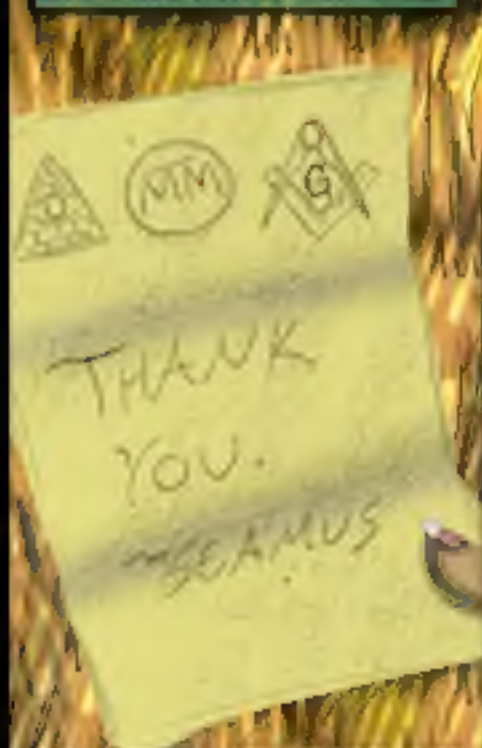
As for me... I finally got my degree in fine arts two years ago. I'm still an unknown artist, who works a dayjob as a retail worker. Still a werewolf.



But you know... funny thing. I think I finally have what I wanted.



It's a new world. But in it...



I'm normal again.



Relatively speaking.

Eldritch: End